

Message Text

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PAGE 01 QUITO 00343 190603Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 INR-05 INRE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY QUITO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6990
AMEMBASSY LIMA NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 0343

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR EC PE

SUBJ: PERU THREATENS TO ACCUSE ECUADOR
OF "PROVOCATIONS"

1. FORMIN JOSE AYALA CALLED ME URGENTLY TO HIS OFFICE TONIGHT
(JAN 18, 8:00 PM) TO INFORM ME OF FOLLOWING.

2. FORMIN DE LA PUENTE OF PERU CALLED IN ECUADOREAN AMBASSADOR
TODAY TO INFORM HIM THAT GOP INTENDED TO PUBLISH A COMMUNIQUE
DETAILING ECUADOREAN "PROVOCATION" DURING PAST YEAR.
THESE "PROVOCATIONS" INCLUDED:

A. DESTRUCTION BY ECUADOREANS OF A BOUNDARY MARKER ALONG RIO
PROTOCOL BOUNDARY.

B. PLACEMENT OF OFFENSIVE SIGNS ON PERUVIAN TERRITORY (E.G.
"VIVA EL ECUADOR" "THIS IS THE ECUADOREAN FORNTIER").

C. MACHINE-GUNNING BY ECUADOREAN AIRCRAFT OF A PERUVIAN VILLAGE AT
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CONFLUENCE OF SANTIAGO AND MARANON RIVERS.

3. ADMIRAL POVEDA TELEPHONED PRESIDENT MORALES BERMUDEZ TONIGHT
TO URGE THAT PERU NOT PUBLISH COMMUNIQUE, WHICH POVEDA SAID WOULD
SEVERLY DAMAGE THE
GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AND CREATE A CLIMATE
OF EXTREME TENSION. POVEDA URGED MORALES BERMUDEZ TO INVESTIGATE

THE ALLEGED AIR ATTACK AND TO KEEP THE MATTER ON A CONFIDENTIAL LEVEL BETWEEN THE TWO MILITARIES, I.E. NOT TO ELEVATE IT TO A DIPLOMATIC LEVEL. MORALES BERMUDEZ ONLY COMMITTED HIMSELF TO CONSULT HIS ADVISORS AND TO GET BACK TO POVEDA WITH A DECISION. POVEDA WHO CALLED ADMIRAL PARODI AND AYALA HAS TALKED TO DE LA PUENTE BY PHONE TO URGE THE GOP NOT TO PUBLISH THE COMMUNIQUE. AYALA ALSO CALLED IN THE PERUVIAN AMBASSADOR, WHO, HE SAID, AGREED THAT IT WOULD BE A GRAVE MISTAKE FOR PERU TO ISSUE THE COMMUNIQUE.

4. AYALA SAID THAT THE ALLEGED AIR ATTACK IS TOTALLY FALSE. IT WOULD BE "INSANE", HE POINTED OUT FOR ECUADOR TO COMMIT SUCH AN ACT, GIVEN THE CONVERSATIONS REGARDING A SETTLEMENT OF THE BORDER PROBLEM WHICH HAVE BEEN TAKING PLACE AND GIVEN ECUADOR'S GREAT MILITARY INFERIORITY VIS A VIS PERU. HE SAID THAT THE GOE GREATLY FEARS THAT THE GOP IS ATTEMPTING TO CREATE A PRETEXT FOR AN AGGRESSIVE ACT AGAINST ECUADOR.

5. AYALA INFORMED ME THAT THERE HAD BEEN TWO INCIDENTS ON THE FRONTIER IN RECENT WEEKS. ON JANUARY 10, FOUR MEN DRESSED IN PERUVIAN UNIFORMS WERE ENCOUNTERED BY AN ECUADOREAN PATROL INSIDE ECUADOREAN TERRITORY IN THE SOUTHWESTERN FRONTIER AREA, WHERE THE RIO PROTOCOL BOUNDARY IS DEMARCATED. DURING THIS ENCOUNTER ONE OF THE FOUR WAS KILLED. THE PERUVIANS ALLEGE THAT NONE OF THE FOUR WERE PERUVIAN

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SOLDIERS, AND THAT THE ONE HAD INNOCENTLY ENTERED ECUADOR TO VISIT A VILLAGE. SUBSEQUENTLY, ECUADOREAN MILITARY RETURNED THE BODY OF THE DEAD INTRUDER AND A DOCUMENT WAS SIGNED IN WHICH BOTH SIDES STATED THAT THE DEATH WAS ACCIDENTAL.

6. YESTERDAY, AN ECUADOREAN PATROL IN THE AREA OF THE CORDILLERA DEL ECUADOR, THE UNDEMARCATED BORDER AREA, WERE ATTACKED BY A PERUVIAN PATROL AND ONE ECUADOREAN SOLDIER WAS WOUNDED. AN ECUADOREAN HELICOPTER ENTERED THE AREA TO EVACUATE THE WOUNDED MAN. AYALA POINTED OUT THAT THIS INCIDENT OCCURRED HUNDREDS OF KILOMETERS FROM THE ALLEGED AIR ATTACK ON THE PERUVIAN VILLAGE.

7. AYALA SAID THAT ADMIRAL POVEDA HAD INSTRUCTED HIM TO ASK ME TO INFORM MY GOVERNMENT OF THE ABOVE, STRICTLY FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES. THE GOE IS NOT ASKING THE USG TO DO ANYTHING AT THIS POINT. HE SAID HE WOULD KEEP US INFORMED.

BLOOMFIELD

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NNN

Message Attributes

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